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FORMER SSPK MEMBERS TRIED FOR SABOTAGE

7 ACCUSED -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 46, 15 Feb 50

A trial of former members of the SSPK (Food Consumers' Cooperative of Communication Workers) Administration in Katowice started 14 February before the Appellate Court in Katowice. The accused, Walenty Latanowicz, Jan Wolny, Wiktor Krawczyk, Jan Majk, Franciszek Kolodziej, Piotr Sliwka, and Ernest Pekala, are charged with drawing exorbitant salaries, accepting falsified accounts, destructive management, and many other abuses.

Latanowicz, former president of the SSKP and director of the supply branch of the DOKP (Regional Administration of State Railroads), was the first to be called. He was accused of misappropriating 543,000 zlotys in 1947 and 1948, of diverting 40,000 kilograms of edible oil allotted to the workers, and of reselling large amounts of caustic soda to private firms. At his suggestion also, the cooperative bought the Freda sugar and waffle factory in Mikolow for 2,700,000 zlotys, which, from all reports, was worth only 1,200,000 zlotys. He is also accused of submitting falsified accounts and padding expense accounts for which he was reimbursed from cooperative funds.

The trial is continuing.

WORKERS SENTENCED FOR BRIBERY -- Dziennik Zachodni, No 34, 3 Feb 50

Three former workers of the Main Warehouse of the Central Iron and Steel Marketing Office in Warsaw were found guilty of receiving bribes. The Court of Appeals sentenced former director Feliks Druszkiewicz to life imprisonment, and confiscated his property. Kazimierz Kotowski assistant director, was sentenced to 4 years in prison, and Henryh Szmidt, director of the Sales Department, to 12 years. The prosecutor charged that the accused sold allocated goods to private buyers, with the result that 75 percent of state orders were not filled.

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OFFICIALS FOUND GUILTY OF MALFEASANCE -- Dziennik Zachodni, No 42, 11 Feb 50

The Court of Appeals in Wroclaw in emergency session found three high officials of the State Railroad Car Factory in Wroclaw guilty of abuse of office. It also found Helena Perkowa, owner of a paint and lacquer factory in Leszno, guilty of bribery. Perkowa was charged with bribing the officials to obtain orders. The officials by-passed state sources of supply and gave orders amounting to many million zlotys to private enterprises for lumber, paints, and varnishes.

The State Railroad Car Factory sustained great losses as the result of high prices paid to private businessmen and inferior materials delivered.

Marek Strzelecki, director of the State Railroad Car Factory, was sentenced to life imprisonment; Jozef Kosinski and Ludwig Witoslawski, managers of the purchasing department, were sentenced to 15 to 8 years respectively, and Helena Perkowa was sentenced to 12 years.

SCORES ABSENTEEISM AT MINE -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 38, 7 Feb 50

For several months now, the Barbara-Wyzwolenie Mine has not achieved the plan. Difficult geological conditions, thin veins, and lack of workers are a few reasons, but the most important reason is the excessive and unjustified absenteeism. The honest, steady workers look upon unjustified absence as shirking and the real reason for the nonachievement of the plans.

In October, absenteeism reached 4.2 percent, in November 4.2, in December 5.5, and in January 5.5 percent. Everything is being done to reduce absenteeism: the name of the shirker, showing the amount lost through absence, is posted outside the mine; for each absence, 200 kilograms of coal are cut from his allowance (in kind); he loses his share of the final premium; he is suspended from the contract wage rate and put on a nominal daily rate; and, after one month of dilligent work, he is returned to the contract rate. All this seems ineffective -- apparently there are dolts who cannot be convinced through penalties or explanations.

The efforts of the honest workers are being sabotaged and the plan is not achieved. The miners' record cards help, to a certain degree, to reduce absenteeism. In one division, two faces not being worked for lack of men. The workers are incensed and insist that drastic measures be taken to eliminate this situation so that honest workers are not penalized.

CZMPM CARELESS WITH STATE SECRETS -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 43, 12 Feb 50

CZMPM (Central Material Supply Office of the Metal Industry) in Bytom supplies 350 important industrial enterprises. In spite of this, the operation of CZMPM still shows many shortcomings, causing difficulties in many industrial enterprises.

CZMPM receives production and supply plans for various enterprises, and these plans are considered state secrets. However, the plans are left lying around on desks and often disappear. Not long ago, the same condition prevailed at the Slask branch, but this condition has improved somewhat.

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